

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-22 are pending in this application. Applicants have not amended the claims. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8, 13, 15-17, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,006,171 to Vines et al. in view of U.S. patent publication 2006/0205389 to Öberg. The Examiner rejected claims 4-7, 9-12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vines et al. and Öberg and further in view of U.S. patent 7,120,830 to Tonack.

Since Öberg was published after the filing date of the present application, Öberg is only available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). However, at the time the claimed invention was made, Öberg and the subject matter and the claimed invention were owned by the same corporate entity, ABB Research Ltd. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Öberg shall not preclude patentability. Both grounds of rejection cite Öberg. Therefore, both grounds of rejection should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this case and issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 4, 2009

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